(c) An agency selected for rendering such services at Indian Airports is supposed to charge Rs. 500.00 per passenger out of which royalty charges of 11% of Gross Turn Over is payable to Airports Authority of India.

International Airport at Nagpur

439. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to refer to answer to Starred Question 24 and Unstarred Question 239 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th July and 13th July, 2004 respectively and state:

(a) what is the present status of the proposal to develop a multi-nodal international hub airport for passenger and cargo at Nagpur;

(b) the broad features of the contemplated international airport;

(c) whether the area around is to be developed into a Special Economic Zone to boost up exports as a part of the plan; and

(d) the progress made so far and what is the time-frame for completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The State Government of Maharashtra had submitted a proposal to develop Nagpur Airport as a Multi-Nodal International Hub Airport for Passenger and Cargo. On the advice of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of Maharashtra conducted a due diligence of Airport infrastructure at Nagpur and submitted a report on 26.10.2004. The report is under examination.

(c) and (d) A fresh proposal from the Maharashtra Airport Development Company Limited for setting up of a Special Economic Zone around Nagpur airport through the State Government is awaited in the Ministry of Commerce.

Facilities for Haj Pilgrims

440. SHRI MUKHTAR ABBAS NAQVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only Air India and Saudi Airlines are being used for carrying Haj pilgrims at present;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are complaints against Saudi Airlines for not providing proper services to the Haj pilgrims;

(c) whether Government have any scheme to tie-up with other airlines for carrying Haj pilgrims so that inconvenience could be avoided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a)The arrangements for movement of Haj pilgrims from India to Saudi Arabia and back are made by Air India in close coordination with Indian Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

International carriers to Indian destinations

441. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than forty international carriers have shown interest to fly to India during the next one year;

(b) if so, the names of the airlines which have shown interest to fly to Indian destinations; and

(c) whether Indian Airlines and Air India are planning to reduce their air fares between Delhi and USA, UK, Europe and South East Asian countries in view of competition and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Traffic rights for flying to India are available to the designated airlines of 100 countries, who have entered into Air Services Agreements with India. Actual operations are however matters of commercial judgement of the airlines concerned. A total of 58 foreign airlines are presently operating to India.

(c) All airlines operating on international sectors are free to apply tariff of their choice. Air India/Indian Airlines have also established appropriate fares taking into account market dynamics and competition. They keep constant vigil on market fluctuations in order to react suitably.